

# FREDERICK COUNTY RECYCLES!



## Recycle More. Waste Less.



*News and Notes from  
the Frederick County  
Department of Solid  
Waste Management*

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## 2009 - The Year in Review

It has been an exciting year in the world of recycling for Frederick County to say the least. Beginning in late fall of 2008, the Department of Solid Waste Management began redesigning and adding many initiatives to enhance programs and expand services for residents. The Department oversees all waste management operations for the County, including the Office of Recycling. Here are just some of the new events and programs that have been implemented in the past year:

- Frederick County switched from a dual-stream to a single-stream recycling system.
- More than 18,000 households were added to existing collection routes, so that all single-family homes in the county now have curbside recycling service available.
- Frederick County purchased and distributed more than 65,000 wheeled, lidded, large-capacity recycling carts for single family homes, implemented new technologies, including RFID chips embedded in all recycling carts so that the County can gather better data about residential participation rates, and new collection and materials transfer procedures that ensure accurate measurements of what is collected across the county.
- The recycling program expanded the range of materials accepted for recycling to include many new items.
- Frederick County government facilities, Public Schools and Frederick Community College implemented single stream recycling.
- The county began a Commercial Recycling Program that provides technical assistance to local businesses and encourages waste reduction for workplaces and organizations.
- The Office of Recycling hired new staff to communicate with and educate the public about waste management issues. This allowed for increased outreach and educational efforts regarding waste diversion—composting, reusing materials, recycling a broad range of items (including electronics, automotive materials, textiles and more) and source reduction—to encourage residents to create less waste in the first place.
- Frederick County established an interim program for recycling at public events (such as community festivals).

- Information Compiled by Dawn Adams , Recycling Program Manager



Single Stream recycling means that all of your recyclable materials can be mixed together in one collection container. It's easy!

This is a short summary of a longer article available on our website. To read the full details, please visit:

[www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/oops!](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/oops!)

This household of avid recyclers has done a great job of collecting and setting out their material...except... can you spot the non-recyclable item?



## Average Household Recycling Increases Over 35%!

Switching to every-other-week curbside collection reduced overall program costs. This allowed the Board of County Commissioners to expand the curbside recycling program to include over 18,000 additional residences that had never had this service before. Another advantage of every-other-week collection is reduced truck traffic and emissions.

Other program changes included the availability of wheeled, lidded carts for all single family households in Frederick County. The program also switched to single-stream,

meaning that all recyclables can now be mixed in one container. These changes have made curbside recycling easy to do and available to more households. As a result, more people are now recycling more material than ever before—congratulations Frederick County!

The number of residences eligible to participate increased 37 percent in 2009. The total tons of recyclables collected in June through September increased between 76 and 86 percent in 2009. This means that the average set-out of recyclables, measured in pounds per household, increased by more than 35 percent!!!

Month	2008			2009			Increase in Tons Collected	Increase in Eligible Households	% Increase in Recyclables Per Household
	# of Houses Eligible	Tons of Recyclables*	Average lbs/Month Per House	# of Houses Eligible	Tons of Recyclables*	Average lbs/Month Per House			
June	54,443	850.28	31.24	72,646	1,496.89	41.21	76%	33%	31.91%
July	54,443	822.33	30.21	72,646	1,525.95	42.01	86%	33%	39.06%
August	54,443	766.83	28.17	72,646	1,372.39	37.78	79%	33%	34.11%
September	54,443	816.15	29.98	72,646	1,486.50	40.92	82%	33%	36.49%

\*This data reflects the tons collected curbside *minus* the average tonnage of trash contamination for the time periods shown.

Prepared by Jan Ely, Residential Recycling Program Coordinator

## How NOT to Recycle!

Currently, more than 6% of what County residents set out for recycling collection is actually trash!

### Please DO NOT:

- ✗ Put non-recyclable materials into your collection container. *When in doubt, throw it out!*
- ✗ Place recyclable materials inside garbage bags or any other bags. *Do not place your recyclables out for curbside collection inside bags, whether clear or solid-colored. The only exceptions to this rule are shredded paper, which should be placed inside a paper bag, and plastic bags marked with a recycling symbol, which should be gathered together inside a single recyclable bag.*
- ✗ Leave Styrofoam packing materials inside a cardboard box or other container.
- ✗ Leave liquids inside containers. *All containers must be emptied!*
- ✗ Recycle microwaveable plastics. *This includes frozen dinner trays, take-out meal containers and items marked "microwave safe".*
- ✗ **Recycle thin, brittle, "clamshell" plastics.** *This includes fruit, bakery and deli containers as well as others, regardless of what number is imprinted on them.*
- ✗ Recycle used paper plates, greasy pizza boxes, tissues, waxed paper or any soiled paper products.
- ✗ Recycle drinking glasses, dinnerware, windows, mirrors, vases and ceramics. *The only glassware accepted for recycling is food-grade containers. If it's glass and you bought it with food or drink in it, it's recyclable!*

• Did you know that the process of transporting, sorting and disposing of non-recyclable waste currently costs Frederick County's recycling program more than \$17,000 each month?

# Curbside Recycling in Frederick County Has Come a Long Way...

## Then:

Frederick County implemented a pilot curbside recycling program in June of 1991. Residents of 4,000 households participated and received 18 gallon blue recycling bins. Residents were asked to commingle their recyclables for weekly pickup.

Acceptable items included old newspapers, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, clear glass bottles and jars, tin cans and aluminum cans. From June 1991 to June 1992, about 582 tons of recyclables were collected curbside. Participation was estimated at 70%. The average set out was 24.25 pounds per household per month.

## Now:

Over the past 18 years the acceptable items for recycling grew to include: glass bottles and jars (all colors), aluminum, tin and steel cans, containers and foil, cereal boxes and other paperboard boxes, cardboard, paperback books, plastic bottles, magazines and catalogs, newspaper and mixed paper.

The following acceptable items were added to the single-stream program: milk cartons, juice boxes, plastic bags, plastic tubs, wide-mouth containers and empty aerosol cans.

In 2009, the number of households participating grew to over 72,000.



In June, July, August and September of 2009, more than 6,351 tons of recyclables were collected curbside. The average set out was 40.93 pounds per household per month.

- Information Compiled by Jan Ely,  
Residential Recycling Program Coordinator

Tech Support: [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle)



The Department of Solid Waste Management's website is a useful resource for gathering information and answering questions about recycling, source reduction, composting and other important topics.

- ➔ In winter, our website is an easy place to find out how weather may be affecting the curbside collection routes. If snow, sleet or ice make conditions unsafe, we'll post any delays, changes to pick-up days or cancellations of service promptly.
- ➔ Did you know you can also watch a video on our website that shows how Frederick County's recyclables are processed, from curbside collection to separation at the Recycle America materials recovery facility?
- ➔ If you have specific questions or customer-service related issues not addressed on the website, please call Allied Waste at 301-694-6498, or send email to [frederickrecycles@publicservices.com](mailto:frederickrecycles@publicservices.com)



## New Collection Schedules...and Stickers!

Keep an eye out for materials mailed to all single-family homes during the week of Thanksgiving. Inside each envelope is a flyer with information on the recycling program, a 2010 recycling collection calendar, as well as the ever-popular stickers to remind you which days to set your cart out at the curb!



If you do not receive this important mailing, please call our office at 301-600-2960 or send email to: [recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

We want to help you stay informed and we strive to continually improve the Frederick County Recycling Program.



# Frederick County Christmas Tree Recycling Program

December 26, 2009 through January 25, 2010



*After the holiday season, think "green" and recycle your Christmas tree!*

Frederick County Provides a Number of Temporary Locations for Residents\* to Take Their Christmas Trees for RECYCLING During the Weeks of 12/26/09—1/25/2010:

- \* Reichs Ford Road Yard Trimming Area  
9031 Reichs Ford RD, Frederick, MD 21704

The following sites are for RESIDENTIAL use only:

- \* Ballenger Creek Park (second parking lot on the left)  
5420 Ballenger Creek Pike, Frederick, MD 21703
- \* Kemptown Park (lower left parking lot)  
3456B Kemptown Church RD, Monrovia, MD 21770
- \* Middletown Park, Middletown Park Recycling Center  
7628 Coblentz RD, Middletown, MD 21769
- \* Point of Rocks, Ruritan Club (left side of parking lot)  
1637 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks, MD 21777
- \* Thurmont, Eyler Road Park Recycling Center  
30 Eyler RD, Thurmont, MD 21788
- \* Walkersville Heritage Farm Park, Yard Trimming Collection Site  
9224 Devilbiss Bridge RD, Walkersville, MD 21793

Please remember to remove all ornaments, lights, tinsel, garland, stands and plastic bags before leaving the tree at the collection site. \* Program for residents only, not businesses. \*



## Electronics Recycling...Think of it as "Re-Gifting"!

The holidays can bring in a sleigh load of new gadgets—cell phones, digital cameras, video game players, computers and laptops, music players, televisions...and so much more! But what happens to your *old technology*? Just because they've been replaced doesn't mean that your old gadgets aren't still valuable resources. Don't throw them out, RECYCLE them!

The Department of Solid Waste Management facilities at Reichs Ford Road accept a wide variety of electronic devices for recycling (the complete list is available on our website). These items are brought in through the main entrance and deposited at our **Citizens' Drop-off Center** for a current cost of \$3.80 per 100 pound of material recycled. This fee may vary and helps to cover part of the costs of maintaining the e-cycling program.

By recycling these items you prevent toxic materials such as mercury and lead from entering the environment, and allow valuable components to be reclaimed for reuse. It's an easy, "green" gift for the environment and the economy!

# Get Your 2010 Calendars Ready!

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Is your organization, business, or club preparing their 2010 meeting schedule? Contact the Office of Recycling to include us in your plans! The Frederick County *Recycling Outreach Program* works with local groups to provide educational opportunities and promote recycling endeavors.

Our staff can:

- ✓ provide technical support and containers for event recycling
- ✓ set up educational displays at your site
- ✓ provide speakers for your club meeting or business gathering
- ✓ lead youth activities and teach lessons on waste, resources and recycling
- ✓ teach adult classes on composting, waste reduction or recycling
- ✓ offer tours of the Department of Solid Waste Management facilities
- ✓ answer questions and provide resource information on recycling

To request outreach services, send email to [recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov) or call 301-600-2960.

## F H J R P What About SNOW DAYS?

All roads in the County may not be accessible during inclement weather. Our policy is to provide service that ensures the safety of staff and residents. To meet this goal, curbside recycling collection sometimes operates under a delay, starting later in the day than usual, or shifts to the next day, or sometimes may be canceled entirely. If your street is not serviced due to weather, please leave your cart curbside as collection may be attempted again the next day.

The easiest ways to find out the status of curbside recycling collection are:

- Check our website for continual updates: [www.FrederickCountyMd.gov/recycle](http://www.FrederickCountyMd.gov/recycle)
- Call to hear a recorded message updated with current info: 301-600-2960

## HOLIDAY CHANGES TO CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICK-UP DAYS

**Don't forget that** neighborhood recycling collection is affected by certain holidays !

Curbside pick-ups will NOT take place on the following days:

- \* Thanksgiving: Thursday 11/26/2009
- \* Christmas: Friday 12/25/2009
- \* New Year's: Friday 1/1/2010

If your regular collection day falls on one of these holidays, your recyclables will be picked up the following day.

Additionally, the schedule for the rest of the week shifts one day later than the usual day.

## Know What These Toys Have in Common?

They can all be RECYCLED!!! Frederick County's *Bulky Rigid Plastic Recycling Program* allows oversized hard plastic items that would not fit into your curbside collection container to be brought to the drop-off site located at the Reichs Ford Road recycling facilities.

Items accepted include rigid plastic: toys, wheelbarrows, picnic coolers, lawn furniture, storage totes, shelving, car parts such as bumpers and grilles, buckets and barrels, garden pots, milk crates, water cooler jugs, household storage totes and more.

All items must be made of RIGID plastic—not soft, flexible materials such as rubber hoses, garden edging, tubing, vinyl or rubber products. Also, PVC items are not acceptable!



## RECYCLING...*NOT JUST FOR RESIDENTS!*



### The Maryland Recycling Act

The State of Maryland requires Frederick County to collect data annually from businesses that are recycling any of the following items:

- Compostables: grass, leaves, and mixed yard waste, wood waste, food waste
- Glass: containers, mixed glass, fluorescent light tubes
- Metals: aluminum cans, tin/steel cans, scrap metal, white goods
- Paper: corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, books, phone books, shredded paper
- Plastic: mixed plastics, films, containers
- Other Materials: laser toner cartridges, lead acid batteries, oil filters, wood pallets



## Business Owners, Take Pride in Your Recycling!

The Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) is a state law that requires Frederick County to report ALL recycling activity that is taking place at businesses in the County. This data is used to determine the County's official recycling rate.

You can take pride in contributing to the success of the County recycling program by providing your business's recycling information for Calendar Year 2009. All information provided is confidential. The due date for this data is March 30, 2010.

The simple one page MRA reporting form can be downloaded at: [www.frederickcountymd.gov/MRA](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/MRA).

For more information or to submit a report, please call Dave Helmecki, Commercial Recycling Program Coordinator, at 301-600-7404, or send email to: [DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

## Interested in Starting or Expanding a Recycling Program for YOUR Business?

Did you know that recycling could actually save your business money?

Establishing a recycling program for your business or organization is not only great for the environment, but can also be good for your bottom line.

For more information on starting up a new program or expanding an existing one, contact Dave Helmecki, Frederick County's Commercial Recycling Program Coordinator, by calling 301-600-7404, or sending email to [DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov)

Let Dave show you how simple it can be!



## Local Businesses Receive Awards in Recognition of Wise Waste Management Practices

A new program was developed in order to acknowledge the efforts and innovative steps that many local businesses and government entities are enacting to create less waste: The annual *Frederick County Source Reduction Award*.

The program is sponsored by the Department of Solid Waste Management, in conjunction with the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, City of Frederick Economic Development and the Downtown Frederick Partnership. Applicants were evaluated on their efforts to implement or expand innovative and successful waste reduction programs in the workplace.

The winners are: *The Green Country Inn and Diner*, Gold Award in Hospitality Services and *The Common Market*, Gold Award in Retail Services. Congratulations! These businesses were formally recognized by the Board of County Commissioners on November 10, 2009 and received an awards plaque. To see examples of the innovative efforts the organizations have taken, visit our '**Recycling in the Workplace**' website and read the full press release: [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle).

Keep an eye out for award application information in our next newsletter!

## Spotlight On Local Businesses: St. John Properties and Clym Environmental Services

*St. John Properties and Clym Environmental Services announce startup of pilot recycling program for local office parks.*

St. John Properties, Inc., which owns and manages the Center at Monocacy and Riverside Technology Park, announced it will begin a commercial recycling program for their Frederick properties. **"The ultimate goal in providing this program to our tenants is to help them realize the environmental and financial benefits of recycling," explained Linda Mazzarese, Property Manager for St. John Properties.** The initial 90-day pilot period is being offered by St. John Properties at no cost to their Tenants, with the hope that

Tenants will see the value of recycling and continue the program indefinitely.

Clym Environmental Services, a Frederick County based recycling and life sciences waste disposal company, will administer the program on behalf of St. John Properties by providing each Tenant with one or more 95-gallon recycling containers and offering convenient collection. To further ensure **the program's success, Clym Environmental** has spent the past few weeks meeting individually with every Tenant, adjusting and customizing the program for their needs.

St. John Properties intends to highlight the importance of recycling through this program, but also would like to encourage

waste reduction. Tenants have been offered reusable water bottles and travel mugs in an effort to reduce the amount of disposable cups and plastic bottles they may generate. Additionally, several other items including: reusable insulated shopping bags, office supplies produced from recyclable/recycled materials and even a clock powered by water, have been distributed to all Tenants. Mazzarese continued, **"St. John Properties will continue to look for ways to help make our properties greener."**

For further information, please contact Linda Mazzarese at 301-682-9215, [lmazzarese@sjpi.com](mailto:lmazzarese@sjpi.com) or Charles Watts, Clym Environmental Services, at 301-694-6000, [cwatts@clymenvironmental.com](mailto:cwatts@clymenvironmental.com)

## Waste Reduction and Recycling Seminars Held

On November 12th, over a dozen representatives from a diverse cross-section of the business community gathered at The Frederick County Office of Economic Development to learn about various waste reduction strategies at a seminar conducted by Dave Helmecki, Frederick County Commercial Recycling Program Coordinator. The seminar was also co-sponsored by the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Frederick Economic Development and Downtown Frederick Partnership.

**While recycling is usually forefront in peoples' minds when they think about garbage, waste reduction (creating less waste in the first place) is an integral part of any solid waste management plan—in fact, in the solid waste hierarchy waste reduction precedes recycling.** The Department of Solid Waste Management is committed to raising awareness of waste reduction through a series of events. The seminar was the result of a smaller focus group that discussed both general waste reduction attitudes and specific actions that can be taken.

Attendees learned of some very easy first steps that can be taken, such as setting their copiers to duplex mode when printing multi page documents to more involved strategies like having suppliers take back packaging material. **"While we would like businesses to implement the specific strategies presented, even more importantly we want them to think about ways to reduce the overall trash that they generate on a daily basis," states Dave Helmecki.**

For further information on waste reduction, please contact Dave Helmecki, Commercial Recycling Coordinator, by calling 301-600-7404, or sending email to: [dhelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:dhelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

### City and Town Recycling Information

- Did you know...The City of Frederick is conducting a business recycling pilot program? This pilot program includes only those businesses that are located in the downtown area. Business will use either existing carts or additional carts provided by the City's Department of Public Works. **The carts have special markings and decals to identify them for recyclable materials only.** For further information, please contact the City of Frederick Department of Public Works at (301) 600-1160.
- The Town of Brunswick has established a drop-off center where businesses can take their recyclables. **The drop-off center is located at the City's Public Works Yard. The hours for businesses to drop-off acceptable items are Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday during Yard Waste Days.** For more information, please contact the City of Brunswick Department of Public Works at (301) 834-6270, [publicworks@brunswickmd.gov](mailto:publicworks@brunswickmd.gov).

*Please note: neither of these programs are in conjunction with the Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management or the County recycling program. Please direct any questions to the appropriate above listed contact.*



## Recycle More. Waste Less.

### Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management

9031 Reichs Ford Road  
Frederick, MD 21704

Office of Recycling: 301-600-2960  
E-mail: [recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov)

Landfill: 301-600-2890  
E-mail: [landfill@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:landfill@FrederickCountyMD.gov)



#### Fill It Up!

*Did you know that if you fill your recycling cart you can set materials out next to the cart, bundled or placed in a cardboard box or paper bag?*

*You can also request a free exchange for a larger cart. 95 gallon models are available by calling Allied Waste services at 301-694-6498 or sending email to: [frederickrecycles@republicservices.com](mailto:frederickrecycles@republicservices.com)*

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

## Dreaming of a "Green" Holiday?



The EPA reports that the amount of residential garbage in the United States generally increases by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

### Here are some ways to help keep your household lean and "green" this season!

- ✱ Before you recycle unwanted holiday catalogs, call the company's customer service number and ask to be removed from their mailing list.
- ✱ When possible buy cards—and other products—made with recycled content.
- ✱ Bring your own bags when doing holiday shopping.
- ✱ Avoid foil embossed or metallic paper because it uses more resources in its manufacturing process and is not recyclable.
- ✱ Decorate with more energy efficient LED light strings rather than traditional lights. LEDs are exceptionally energy efficient, many using up to 90% less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light.
- ✱ Use—and reuse—gift bags or decorative boxes and tins instead of disposable wrapping paper and bows.
- ✱ According to the Washington Post, if every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.
- ✱ Buy rechargeable batteries (the EPA states that about 40% of U.S. yearly battery sales occur during the holiday season!).
- ✱ Give gifts that don't require much packaging or create waste, such as gift cards. Or rather than things, give experiences, such as concert tickets, classes, coupons for trips, an evening out, etc.
- ✱ Put this year's Christmas cards away to cut up and use as next year's gift tags and decorations.
- ✱ Recycle your Christmas tree and old electronic gadgets (see page four for more information!)